

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 4, 1949

Dear Admiral Souers:

In recent months, this Commission's staff has estimated the character and extent of damage that might be done by atomic attack to major installations of the atomic energy program. One of the surveys has covered the headquarters installation in Washington. In this case, however, the survey group for obvious reasons considered the city as a whole, rather than the Atomic Energy Commission building exclusively.

The recent atomic explosion in Russia brings closer the time when decisions must be made on major issues of civilian defense, including the matter of dispersal out from congested urban areas of facilities such as those of Government in Washington. The report made by our Biology and Medicine staff also comments on problems of providing warning of attack, shelters, fire-fighting after an attack, medical care, etc.

The Commission is providing this brief, unclassified summary report to the National Security Resources Board which bears the primary responsibility for civil defense planning, as we have provided and will provide other information pertinent to civil defense that comes from our research and operations.

We believe that the National Security Council may also be interested in the paper because of its pertinence to the important national policy question of dispersal of facilities from urban centers.

The Commission and its staff would be glad to discuss with you at greater length the scientific and technical implications of this report, if you wish it.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

/s/ DAVID E. LILIENTHAL

David E. Lilienthal
Chairman

Admiral Sidney W. Souers
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
Executive Office Building

Enclosure:
"The City of Washington and an
Atomic Bomb Attack"